IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule ~~derived from a precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule, said recombinant nucleic acid molecule~~ produced by the action of a nucleic acid polymerase in a complementing cell comprising at least the E1A gene of an adenovirus on ~~the~~ a precursor ~~recombinant nucleic acid~~ molecule; wherein

said precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule is a recombinant nucleic acid molecule based on or derived from an adenovirus,

said precursor ~~recombinant nucleic acid~~ molecule has at least one functional inverted terminal repeat,

~~said precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule lacks overlapping sequences with the nucleic acid of said complementing cell into which it is transferred, said complementing cell comprising at least the E1A gene of an adenovirus, said overlapping sequences otherwise enabling homologous recombination leading to replication competent virus in said complementing cell,~~

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said precursor ~~recombinant nucleic acid~~ molecule comprises all other adenovirus derived genetic information not present in said complementing cell and necessary for replication ~~but no functional encapsidation signal~~, and

said precursor ~~recombinant nucleic acid~~ molecule is in a linear and essentially single stranded form and comprises, at the precursor ~~recombinant nucleic acid~~ molecule's 3' terminus, a recombinantly fused sequence complementary to an upstream part of the same strand of the precursor ~~recombinant nucleic acid~~ molecule, to allow said sequence and said upstream part to form base pairs and function as a start-site for ~~a~~ said nucleic acid polymerase.

2. (original) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid molecule has a functional inverted terminal repeat at each terminus.

3. (currently amended) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid ~~which alters the host range of said adenovirus as compared to a wild-type adenovirus~~ having a hr400-404 mutation.

4. (currently amended) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises ~~a mutated E2 region rendering at least one of its products temperature sensitive~~ an E2A ts125 mutation.

5. (original) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises an E2 region under the control of an inducible promoter.

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6. (previously added) A cell comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim1.

7. (currently amended) A method of propagating a helper-dependent adenovirus in a complementing cell, comprising:

providing the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 to a complementing cell; and

propagating the helper-dependent adenovirus in said complementing cell.

Please add the following new claims:

8. (new) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said precursor molecule lacks overlapping sequences with the nucleic acid of the complementing cell into which it is transferred, said overlapping sequences otherwise enabling homologous recombination leading to replication competent virus in the complementing cell.

9. (new) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said precursor molecule lacks a functional encapsidation signal.